



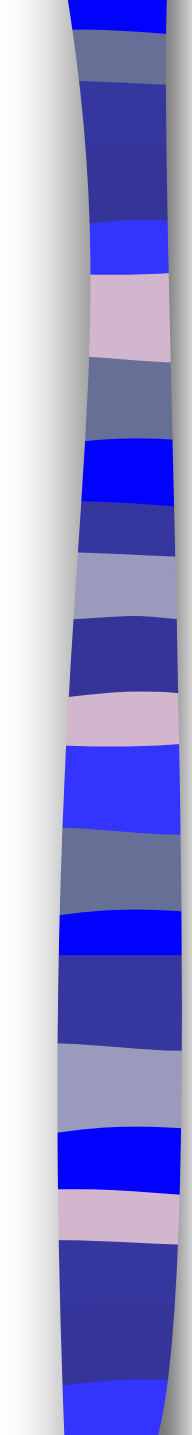
The Expansion of Early Childhood Programs

1800-1870	Extended Family + school/church/neighbors
1870-1920	Family + Kindergarten
1920-1960	Family + Kindergarten + Cooperative Nursery
1960-1980	Family + Kindergarten + Cooperative Nursery + Compensatory Education
1980-1990	Family + Kindergarten + Cooperative Nursery + Compensatory Education + Child Care
1990-2000	Keep all the plates spinning...collaboration
2000+	?? no shift = collusion shift = community



History of Kindergarten

- 1856: First Kindergarten opens in WI (2, 3, 4, 5 year olds)
- 1860: First public kindergarten opens in Missouri (4&5 year olds)
- 1873: First public kindergarten opens in WI (4& 5 year olds)
- 1898: WI Legislature permits schools to establish 4&5K
- 1919: Local taxes could be levied for kindergarten
- 1927: State financial aides established for 4&5K
- 1949: 4&5K counted as 1/2 pupil for state aids
- 1957: Legislature repealed 4K aids
- 1973: Legislature required districts to provide 5K
- 1980: DPI Task Force Studied 4K
- 1984: Legislature reinstated 4K aids & allows 5K aids for full day
- 1989: Decker Task Force recommended collaboration between schools, child care, Head Start and families
- 1990: 21st Century School Commission recommended mandating full day 5K and 1/2 day 4K (no action taken)
- 1991: Legislature allowed 4K 20% time outreach to parents
- 2001: Legislature considers increasing 4K aids to full day but votes to reducing aid. Governor vetoes so funding remains .5



Kindergarten: A Wisconsin Constitutional Commitment

- WI made a constitutional commitment to early education in 1848.
- Article X of the constitution called for school districts to be as uniform as practical and free to all children between the ages of 4 and 20 years.

What's in a Name:



“Kindergarten” = “Children’s Garden”

- Each has its own time and season for maturing
- Some reach great heights; others are low growers
- Most thrive best in a rich environment
- Need time to rest
- Need space for growing
- Need light, sunshine, and fresh air
- Variety adds interest and charm to garden
- Growth comes from within-not something to be added
- Forced growth weakens the results
- Individuals may need special treatment
- In certain stages of development, some need props or support
- Garden is more effective if designed to fit harmoniously into its surroundings
- Good gardener makes an overall plan
- Good gardener knows that physical effort is involved
- Good gardeners need different tools
- When blight strikes, the good gardener seeks the advice of others
- Research has done much to help the gardener have different results
- Good gardeners contribute to research through experimentation, observation and data collection

Who is Eligible

- 4K programs must make enrollment open to all children who are 4 years old on or before September 1.
- 5K programs must make enrollment open to all children who are 5 years old on or before September 1.

Age is the only criteria!





State Funding - 5K

- To receive 0.5 in membership aide, a district must:
 - operate a program a minimum of 437 hours per year (175 days X 2 1/2 hours per day).
- Districts can receive up to 1.0 in membership aide for full day 5K.
 - Operate a program consistent with hours and days of 1st grade.



State Funding - 4K

- To receive 0.5 in membership aide, a district must:
 - operate a program a minimum of 437 hours per year (175 days X 2 1/2 hours per day).
 - 87.5 hours (20%) of the 437 hours can be used for outreach activities for the school staff to link to the child's primary caregivers.
- To receive 0.6 in membership aide, a district must:
 - annually provides at least 87.5 hours of outreach activities in addition to the 437 hours of center based programming.

Is there a requirement for teacher planning time

- Yes, 4&5 year old kindergarten both require the same as all other teachers per local union contract.



Are the specials (physical education, art, and music) required?

- Yes 4&5 year old kindergarten both require:
 - 10% of the instruction year (437 hours) each for music, phy. ed., health, science, and social studies.
 - Do not need to be taught as separate subjects using a teacher driven curriculum.
 - Should be integrated within the learning day with children working in two or more areas at a time (i.e. movement and music) using an integrated curriculum.



How about the rest of the school services like libraries, computers, guidance?

- Yes, 4&5 year old kindergarten both require these consistent with the district practices for elementary grades



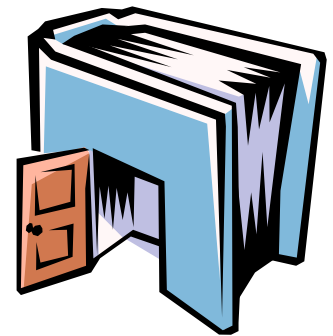
What license must a 4 or 5 K teacher have?



- K license
- Preferable prek - 3
- Can hold dual certification regular and special education
- New licensing structure will require a early childhood or early childhood to middle childhood license

What is the required square footage in 4 or 5 K?

- 35 square feet per child of open floor space, DHLR
- Assumes a self contained classroom, if other space (gym or music room) is used it must be prorated into the calculation



What is the Suggested Teacher Child Ratio in 4 or 5 K?

- Class size is a local local control issues.
- Considerations:
 - 15 children:1 teacher recommended by SAGE, and inclusion model
 - 20 children:2 adults (volunteers or aides) recommended by NAESP and NAEYC



Must Transportation Be Provided?

- Transportation for 4&5 K must be the same as district transportation policies for all children



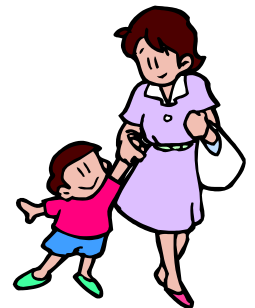


What about early entrance to 4 or 5 K?

- Children are eligible based on their age. They must be 4 or 5 by September 1 of the school year.
- By law, each school district decides if their policies will allow early entrance.
- If they do allow early entrance, they must have a policy on the requirements.
- Policies for 4K should take into account policies at 5K.

4 Year Old Kindergarten VS State Funded Preschool

- Wisconsin is the only state in the U.S. that maintains state funding for four-year-old kindergarten. These programs are open to all four-year-old children in the district.
- Some other states fund preschool programs for disadvantaged 4 year olds.
- Wisconsin communities may call their program for 4-year-olds by any name as long as all of the essential requirements of the 4K funding are met.





Renewed Interest in 4K

- Declining enrollment
- More space in school buildings
- Shift in state funding
- Consumers (parents) want it
- Interest in improving “readiness”



RATIONAL FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL 4 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN

- WI constitution commits to schools for all children 4 to 20 years.
- Community perspective - common school for the common good.
- Provides equity since it is available to all children in a community; the child does not have to be labeled to be enrolled.
- Affordable to parents as cost distribution across community.
- Many families would like school-based services for their children.
- Brings funding to schools & communities as state shares cost.
- Applies research on early brain development and cost benefits.
- Teachers with BA or higher degrees in early childhood education.
- Teacher salaries & work environment create more stable work force.
- Support services are available to address special needs: e.g. school nurse, psychologists, and special education services.
- Access to resources and materials: e.g. libraries, art, music.
- Availability of older children as peer models/tutors/coaches.
- Sense of continuity for child as they move into the next grade level.



HOW SCHOOLS IMPLEMENT IN 4K IN BEST PRACTICES

- Involve the community in decision making and develop community wide approaches that involve the day care/nursery industry in 4K.
- School structure is adapted for the needs of younger children: e.g. providing flexible and open classroom space, reducing travel time on bus, implementing parent outreach activities.
- Curriculum is developmentally appropriate, with child and teacher directed activities, emphasis on active learning, and all developmental developmental areas are addressed.
- Strive for consistency with DHFS day care rules in relation to needs of of younger children.
- Provide extended day options through before/after school programs and 4K services in community child care to address needs of working parents.
- Provide options to support parents that want to keep their child home. home.



4K Program Availability

- 4K programs must be available to all children based on age.
- Large school districts sometimes need to phase 4K in over several years; e.g. by elementary attendance areas. However:
 - Phase in is not popular with those parents who are excluded.
 - If a district can not demonstrate good faith on the phase in process, it is in jeopardy of having to repay the state 4K funding it has received in previous years.



4K Start Up

- The number of children that will eventually attend 4 year old kindergarten can be estimated based on the number of children currently attending 5 year old kindergarten.
- Districts report setting aside between \$4,000 to \$10,000 per room for purchasing classroom materials and equipment.
 - Cost of co-locating in an existing community program were less than costs of totally new start-up.

Act 48: 4K Outreach



- Provides a fiscal incentive for districts to incorporate parental outreach
- Recognizes that parents are partners in the educational process.
- Intends to support and nurture parents as the primary educator.
- Approximately 1/2 of the 4K programs offer outreach.



Act 48: 4K Outreach Activities

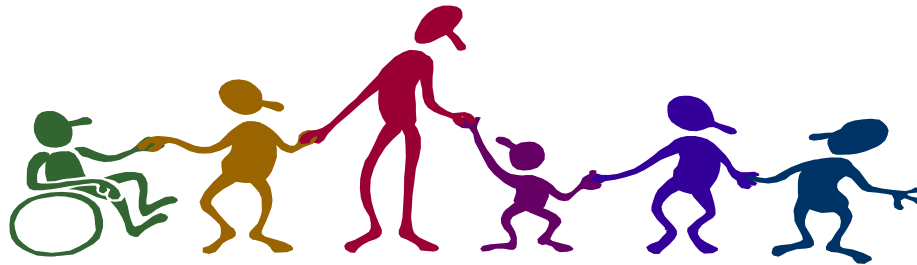
Direct services to parents

- general communications
- home visits
- parents meetings at school or elsewhere in the community
- parent education classes
- parent child activities
 - family activity nights - pot luck dinner meetings - field trips
- orientation before 4K or transition into 5k
- classroom involvement training
- family resource centers
- parent advisory committees
- It is suggested that activities be flexible and varied and sensitive to cultural, racial, and religious differences among families.

4K is Changing the Approach

A system to meet children where they are....

Through community wide considerations....





A New Way of Doing Business

- Coming together of different funding streams at the local level.
- Alignment so that from the perspective of the parents and the child there is a single early childhood program (a single name) with different variations (models) available at different locations (site based management) and delivered by a team of people working together.
- This team may be funded from a variety of sources with different eligibility and service requirements but those issues are addressed at the adult level (administrators, teachers, and parents) without having to separate the programs at the child level.



Blending Funding Streams

- Funding streams combined to support higher quality full day/full year services:
 - membership aide
 - Title I
 - IDEA,
 - Head Start
 - Child care



Blending Funding Streams

Building inclusive programs and a wider array of service delivery models:

- ECSE and 4 K in school buildings
- 4 and 5K school teachers located in child care or Head Start programs
- school contracts with child care to provide 4K
- parent education and support for parents that want to keep their 4 year old home



What Some Districts Are Doing:

- LaCrosse explores 4 models:
 - 4 K in school with before/after programs
 - 4 K teachers in child care centers
 - District contracts with child care for 4 K
 - Parent supports when child stays home
- Milwaukee places 4&5 K teachers in child care centers
- Barneveld contracts with existing child care program for 4 K
- Kimberly combines 4 K and early childhood special education